

STREET SMART

January 4, 2006

Governments
SANBAG
Working Together

Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

San Bernardino Associated Governments ■ 1170 W. 3rd St., 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410 ■ (909) 884-8276
www.sanbag.ca.gov

■ Funding for state transportation program to be very limited

Funds for local roadway projects in the new State Transportation Improvement Program will be practically nonexistent under the state's 2006 fund estimate.

The 2006 STIP fund estimate shows that San Bernardino County will receive \$94.4 million. However, \$5.4 million must be made available for federal transportation enhancement activities, such as landscaping and trail projects, and another \$15.6 million was advanced during the 2004 STIP cycle, leaving a balance of \$73.4 million to be programmed. Of this \$73.4 million, \$55 million is available only for public transit projects, creating a total of \$18.4 million for roadway projects.

This funding is dependent upon revenue from the full funding of Proposition 42 and Tribal Gaming Bond proceeds. Without these sources, the STIP will continue to operate with limited funds and likely will require projects to be delayed or eliminated.

SANBAG has identified a list of projects for programming, based on the assumption that funds will be available. These projects include:

- The widening of northbound Interstate 15 in Victorville
- The widening of Route 138 near Wrightwood
- The widening of Interstate 215 in San Bernardino
- Final improvements to the Route 210/Interstate 215 connection in San Bernardino
- A reserve for desert interchange projects

Proposed federal Transportation Enhancement Activities projects, which will be funded through the STIP, include landscaping along Route 210, Interstate 215 and Interstate 10; the Riverwalk Trail in Victorville, the Rim of the World Scenic Trail, the Santa Ana River Trail and the Colton to San Bernardino pedestrian/bikeway.



The widening of Interstate 215 in San Bernardino is a high priority project for which STIP funds are needed.

■ Board approves contract for new Executive Director

Board members approved a three-year contract with new SANBAG Executive Director Tony Grasso, who will start his position on January 23.

Currently the Vice President of Market Services and Chief Operating Officer for the Associated General Contractors of California, Grasso was selected last month from a field of eight candidates.

Prior to his work with AGC, he served as Executive Director of the Engineering Contractors' Association and was a teacher and coach at Alta Loma High School. Grasso grew up in Rancho Cucamonga and still has roots in the area.

He replaces Norm King, who has retired after more than nine years with SANBAG.

The Board also approved an employment contract with King for transitional help during January, on an as-needed basis.

Deborah Barmack, Director of Management Services, was chosen to serve as the Interim Executive Director until January 23.

Down the road ...

- Jan. 11: Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- Jan. 12: Major Projects Committee, 9 a.m.
- Jan. 18: Plans & Programs Committee, 12 noon
- Jan. 19: Commuter Rail Committee, 12 noon
- Jan. 20: Mountain-Desert Committee, 9 a.m.
- Jan. 20: Retirement Reception for Norm King, 4 p.m., Santa Fe Depot

Hang on, help is on the way...

San Bernardino Valley Freeway Service Patrol is up and running

With a snip of red ribbon, it was official...the Freeway Service Patrol for the San Bernardino valley has hit the road, helping stranded motorists on Interstate 10 and Interstate 15 during peak commute hours.

The service launched on January 3, providing a fleet of roving tow trucks that travel on San Bernardino valley freeways to offer free aid to motorists with car trouble.

SANBAG has contracted with Armada Towing of San Bernardino and Pepe's Towing Services of Colton to fix flat tires, jump-start dead batteries, refill radiators, supply a gallon of gas and assist with other minor mechanical problems — all at no charge. If the tow truck operators cannot fix the problem, they tow vehicles to locations adjacent to the freeway that are designated by the California Highway Patrol, again at no cost.

Where & When

SANBAG administers the Freeway Service Patrol program, with help from Caltrans and the CHP, which oversees daily operations. Service has started on stretches of two freeways covering 33.5 miles, but will be expanded later this year. Service is in place now on:

- Interstate 10 from the San Bernardino County/Los Angeles County line in Montclair to Waterman Avenue in San Bernardino
- Interstate 15 from the San Bernardino County/Riverside County line near Ontario to Baseline Road in Rancho Cucamonga



Members of the SANBAG Board of Directors, former Assemblyman John Longville, the California Highway Patrol, Caltrans, Armada Towing, Pepe's Towing Services and SANBAG staff help cut the ribbon to make the FSP program official.

In late spring or early summer of this year, service will expand to another 18 miles of freeway on Route 60 and Interstate 215.

The program operates during peak traffic periods, from 5 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on selected holidays.

FSP Benefits

Not only does the Freeway Service Patrol provide obvious benefits to stranded motorists, it also helps in other ways. By removing disabled vehicles quickly from local freeways, FSP relieves traffic congestion from blocked lanes and from "lookie-loo" drivers who slow down to watch. FSP also helps prevent secondary accidents, creates safer driving conditions and improves air quality by increasing the flow of traffic.

Funding Challenges

Funding to start the program and operate it through June 30, 2006 was provided by \$980,348 in state funds and \$245,087 in local Measure I funds. Additional funding is secured by state statute for future years and will continue to be matched by Measure I dollars.

Securing funding for the program was an uphill battle. SANBAG submitted an application to Caltrans in September 2003 to create an FSP, but the application was denied, due to rules that restricted new participants unless funding was added to the statewide program. Then-Assemblyman John Longville introduced AB 2498 in 2004 to clarify the statute to ensure that regional and local agencies that meet eligibility requirements could participate, regardless if new funding was allocated. The bill was approved in mid-2004 and signed into law in September 2004. Since that time, San Bernardino, Placer and Santa Barbara counties have joined 19 other counties with FSP programs in California.